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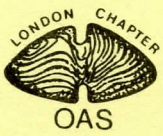
NEWSLETTER OF THE LONDON CHAPTER
ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JANUARY, 1984 84-1

MEETING NOTICE

Our first guest speaker of the New Year will be Dana Poulton, who will discuss the excavation program he supervised last summer in this city. The presentation is entitled *Iroquoian Site Salvage in the City of London: the Need Program* and is sure to be entertaining.

Congratulations to our new executive! Come out and meet them next Thursday, January 12 at the Museum of Indian Archaeology. Meeting time is 8:00 P.M., as usual..... See you there.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Despite hazardous road conditions, all but one member of our 1984 executive met with past president Paul Lennox in London on Thursday, January 5. George, who lives in St. Thomas, wisely elected not to brave the blizzard. Business began with a welcome to Dave Smith as new member of the executive. In a short time a speaker agenda had been drafted for the first half of the year; including presentations by Dr. Michael Pratt from Toledo, Carl Murphy, Bob Pearce and possibly also Dr. Gerald Killan who teaches at Kings College here in London. Organization of a 1984 Chapter bus tour, as well as the re-scheduling of lab nights and execut meetings were additonal topics of discussion. Our Chapter executive will be meeti on the last Wednesday of each month this year.

SOCIAL REPORT

Last month's Christmas Party was one of the best yet and was well attended. O host George Connoy cooked a perfect ham which was the centerpiece of a delicious buffet. The Calverts were missed this year, but not forgotten - Bob kindly sent al a bottle of champagne for the group! Hopefully, we will see Bob and Florence at ou upcoming meeting.

CHAPTER LAB NIGHTS

Starting on January 18, our meeting time will be 7:30 P.M. each Wednesday unti May.

Charles Garrad, the laird of Petunia, has provided our first article of 1984.

A STONE PIPE FROM THE GLEBE SITE (BcHB-1), NOTTAWASAGA TOWNSHIP

Charles Garrad

During the early 1920's Mr. Robert J. Smith, owner of the Petun Iroquois Glebe

(BcHb-1), ploughed up by a very handsome limestone stemmed pipe (see Figure 1). In December 1983 the pipe was passed into the writer's care by Robert Smith's children now octogenarians. This note is to record this event, outline the work done on the site and to testify to the interest of the Smith family in this work.

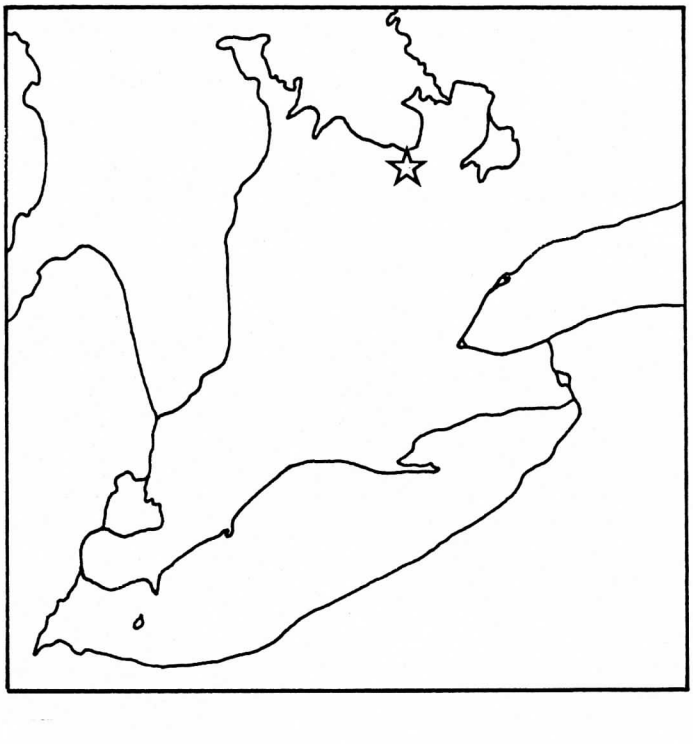


Figure 1: Location of the Glebe site.

The Glebe village has been known since the 1840's when an ossuary was discovered during fore clearance. Boyle, Hunter and Wintemberg recorded it; Wintemberg actually visiting the site in 1922 and collecting surface finds now part of the A.S.C. collection. I first visited it on July 6, 1963 with Mr. J.A. Blair. The owner, Mr. John G. Smith, was haying in t field but stopped work to talk abo the site. Among the numerous inte esting matters he mentioned was th fact that at his house he had a stone pipe found many years before by his father. No evidence of the village was visible through the su face cover at the time.

Because the dating of the sit was not refined enough for our pur poses, several further visits were made, and on June 8, 1964 Jay Blai and Norman Clark of Barrie located midden material and recovered re- storable fragments of a pot, which remains to this day our largest ex ample of the "Blue Mountain Punctate" style of vessel. Other visits to the site in 19 concentrated on relocating the ossuary, but were without success due to the surface co er. The midden was partially excavated in July and August.

On June 5, 1965 we held a one day excavation in the midden. Mr. John G. Smith brought the stone pipe with him to show the crew, and it was on this occasion that I first saw and photographed it. In July and August of 1966, Jay conducted excavations at the site on the same midden; his crew including two ministers and the daughters of third. No search was made for the ossuary because of the surface cover. We found the site ploughed during an October 21, 1967 visit, allowing an extensive surface collect over a five day period. A number of test pits were excavated in an attempt to find th ossuary, which had been well covered over with sand to hide it. Mr. Blair concluded that the profile in one test pit showed disturbance, as if previously excavated and ba filled, and on deepening the hole we found we were on the ossuary. This was measured mapped and filled in October 28, 1967.

In May and June 1968 surface surveys were made and material recovered, but there after the new crop effectively concealed the surface. The site has not been ploughed since. In October a further dig in the principal midden was conducted under the di- rectorship of Joyce Holloway. Other middens were mapped in but left undisturbed. Con trol excavations were also made away from the midden under a rail fence in the hope t

this area had not been disturbed, but ploughstreaks were found on the subsoil interface.

No work was done after 1968, as we had recovered enough material to date the site and demonstrate it was pre-Jesuit i.e. Champlain period. Reports of the 1966 and 196 work by J.T. MacMurchy appeared in the Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin (Oct 6, 1966 and Nov 16, 1967) and of the 1968 work by Jim Shropshire in the Stayner Sun (Oct 24, 1968). The ossuary was briefly mentioned in ARCH NOTES 67-10 and was the subject of report to the local medical officer. John G. Smith and his sister Jennie Mae Smith remained dear friends and often helped me with later researches into area history. Several times in later years we again saw the pipe, kept safely at their home. In 19 they sold off the "Glebe" portion of their farm to their neighbours, Beattie Bros. Limited, who presently own the site.

Exactly when and where their father, Robert J. Smith, found the pipe is not remembered, he just brought it home after ploughing. However, it would seem probable that it was discovered between 1922 and their father's death in 1924. The 1922 date was t of the visit of W.J. Wintemberg, who left a detailed account of the material known fr the site, with no reference to the stone pipe. This account includes a conversation with "Mr. Smith's son" - the same John G. Smith known to me.

Their father's early death in 1924 at the early age of 53 left John and Jennie to look after their mother, the farm and themselves. They have lived in their house since 1907, not far from the one in which they were born. John is now 82, his sister not far behind. John is prohibited from driving due to age and failing eyesight. Jennie says she is almost blind. Both feel they are failing, yet still keep 50 acres some sheep and cattle, an orchard and a garden, still cook on a woodstove, and have never had a refrigerator, central heating or running hot water. Never separated, eac caring devotedly for the other, they find themselves in their eighties confronted wit the necessity of selling out and moving for only the second time in their lives - thi time to a Collingwood "Home". Their possessions all have memories and associations meaningful only to them but making a separation all the harder. Principal among thes because it was found by their father, is the stone pipe (see Figure 2). It also is t last remnant of the "Glebe" part of their farm, which they no longer own.

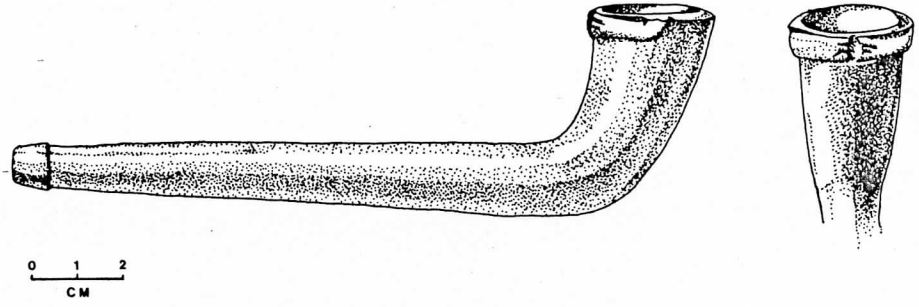


Figure 2: The Smith pipe, including a proximal view of the bowl (J. Ravenhurst)

Early in December John let it be known that they had decided to place the pipe in my care, and on December 20 I called at the house. The pipe was waiting for me in the kitchen and was presented with some ceremony. I replied that the pipe was still their's, but I would keep it in trust for them, as I have all the material we excavated from their site between 1964 and 1968. I repeated my dream that one day there would be a Museum of Petun Archaeology to receive all the material now in my care, and that their father and themselves would be always commemorated by their artifacts and especially the stone pipe. I learned that they had previously refused an offer to sell the pipe to a Port Burwell collector, because years ago they had already decided that it should go to me. With the pipe I left my friends in considerable sadness at what their decision must mean to them, and all the more determined to justify their trust and follow with continued dedication that long and strange path along which my fascination with the Petun has led me.

To my mind the pipe has two unusual characteristics. The first is that it is unbroken, yet measures overall some 6 inches, with a beautifully tapered stem. The second is that it may at one time have been even larger, for it appears to have had an effigy which has been largely cut off, leaving what are possibly two paws. It is a handsome example of the local limestone pipe product which was distributed widely to other Ontario Iroquoian groups during the early seventeenth century. Its exact dimensions are:

Maximum Length: 150 mm
Bowl Diameter: 29-27 mm
Bowl Bore Diameter: 22 mm
Maximum Stem Diameter: 16 mm
Maximum Stem Nipple Diameter: 10.5 mm
Minimum Stem Nipple Diameter: 8 mm
Stem Bore Diameter: 4 mm

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF MIDDLE ISLAND, ONTARIO

William A. Fox

In 1981 our office was contacted by Parks Canada staff who were conducting a resource assessment of Middle Island (see Figure 1). No archaeological information was available for the island, although rumours were circulating regarding the existence of burial mounds. As the writer was involved in archaeological survey activities for the Ministry of Natural Resources on East Sister Island Nature Reserve, an orientation tour of Middle Island was scheduled in 1982.

Mr. Jack Sulston, Wheatley Provincial Park Superintendant, and the writer stopped briefly along the southwest shore of the island on June 29. As evening approached a rapid inspection of a thin, eroding shoreline soil deposit disclosed the presence of fire-cracked rock, flaked chert, bone and ceramics. Although small in size and number the decorated shell tempered pottery was indicative of a c.1400 A.D. Native occupation on this camp.

The initial reconnaissance suggested that a more thorough survey of Middle Island was warranted, and consequently, a crew of six travelled by boat to the island, braving high waves to arrive on April 25 last year. Three and a half days were spent in survey mapping and test excavation activities.

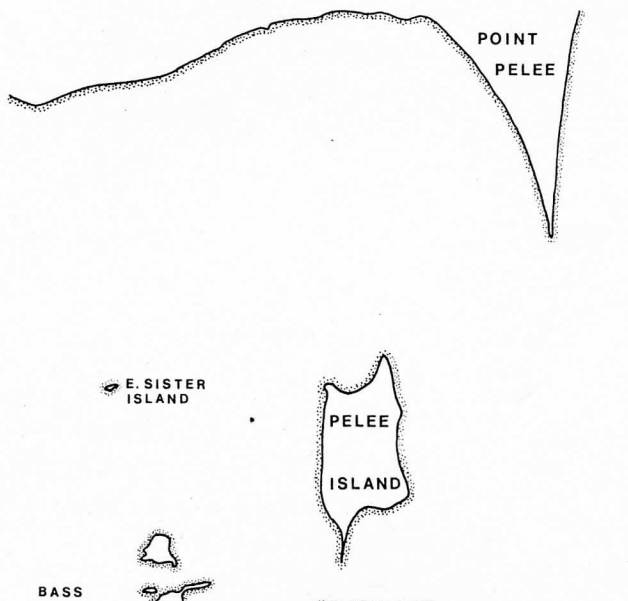


Figure 1: Location of Middle Island

Ecological Setting

Middle Island is a Dundee Fm. li stone outcrop thinly covered with gla drift (including chert pebbles) and p arily forested with deciduous species such as cottonwood, hackberry, oak an maple (Rennie, 1982). The understory cludes chokecherry, elderberry, raspb and mulberry (Ibid, 1982). Roughly 2 hectares in area, the island is a fav nesting ground for night herons, grea egrets and herring gulls - as our cre soon discovered. Medium to small mam mals such as cottontails, fox squirre and red fox are reported; while the i land also supports a large snake pop- ulation, particularly garter, water a fox snakes. Many of these, including a solid jet black colour garter snake variant, were observed leaving winter in the limestone crevasses.

The Project

Our Middle Island crew was divid between an excavation and a survey pa Two people spent several days careful excavating a three by one meter trenc on the Sulston site (AnHq-9) (see Fig 2). Our three one meter units were e cavated in arbitrary 5 cm levels, as soil appeared to be a homogeneous dar grey silty sand. A grey-brown subsoi was encountered at a depth of 20-21 c from surface, while the limestone bed was exposed at 25-26 cm. The distribu of late nineteenth century debris thr out the dark grey topsoil leaves little doubt that this soil horizon is in fact a plou disturbed zone relating to early European agricultural activities on the island.

The survey crew test pitted the entire island perimeter, as well as the western land interior at 10-15 meter intervals. This test grid was supplemented by inspection of eroded and otherwise disturbed ground surfaces. Our early arrival on the island ha been planned to preceed spring plant growth and our timing was right, as there was little ground cover in the forested zones, including the eastern island interior. Dur the brief period of our stay the cover grew up considerably.

Each artifact or fire-cracked rock findspot was surveyed in by transit, stadia ro and tape. A total of 21 survey stations were established in a closed traverse of the island. Eighty-nine sightings were recorded, including 40 artifact findspots, 17 fire-cracked rock findspots, a number of southern shoreline points, plus three datums

and a Canadian Hydrographic Service plate. The three datums are "x's" chiselled into the shoreline bedrock around the island.

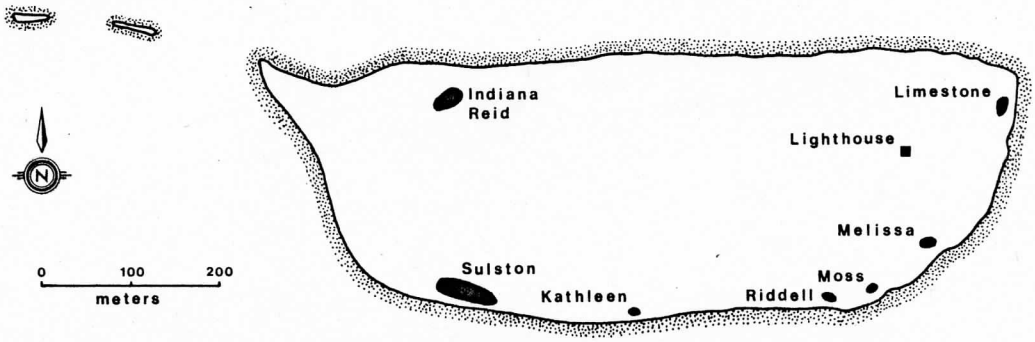


Figure 2: Middle Island Archaeological Sites

Many artifact findspots probably represent isolated short-term Native activities or perhaps, individual lodge sites. The thinly dispersed artifact pattern suggests that the prehistoric occupation of Middle Island was never intensive; indeed, the largest site (Sulston) undoubtedly represents continued re-occupation of the prime island camp location over at least several centuries. Such a diffuse settlement pattern, when combined with a primarily test pitting survey strategy, made site definition difficult. Nevertheless, seven prehistoric Native and one historic European structure (a late 19th century lighthouse) have been registered (see Figure 2).

The Sites

Sulston (AnHq-9)

As indicated above, three one meter units were excavated to bedrock on this camp site. Native ceramic recoveries were meagre and, unfortunately, no additional shell tempered pottery was recovered. The sherds obtained during the previous visit include portions of at least two vessels. A completely shell tempered specimen appears to have been relatively small and decorated in a similar fashion to vessels recovered from the Mississippian influenced Fort Meigs village on the Maumee River near Toledo, Ohio (Stothers and Pratt, 1981: Figure 3 o,p,q). Figure 3 is an artist's conception of what this vessel may have looked like.

The ceramics recovered in 1983 included only body sherds from at least three vessels: one plain smoothed, one cord malleated and one self slipped/wiped. All three vessels could relate to a Wolf Phase (Younge Tradition) c. 1300-1500 A.D. occupation, contemporary with the Fort Meigs style vessel depicted in Figure 3; however, the corded vessel probably represents an earlier c. 1000-1200 A.D. occupation of the campsite by Younge Phase peoples.

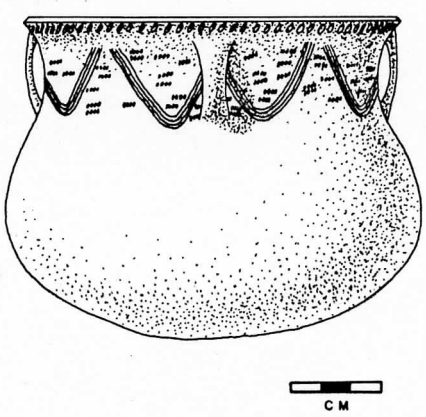


Figure 3: Sulston site shell tempered vessel - artist's reconsturction (J. Ravenhurst)

Lithic artifacts were equally unimpressive. No bifaces, scrapers or other formal chipped stone tools were recovered. Debitage and pebble core fragments representing utilization of locally available Onondaga and Selkirk chert pebbles obtained from the island drift were abundant. Informal utilized flakes are the only chipped stone tools identified in the assemblage. Four notched limestone cobble net sinkers were discovered during the 1982 site visit, but none were found in 1983. A single ground hornblende schist adze butt recovered from a test pit north of the trench rounds out the lithic artifact inventory.

Artifacts deriving from the late nineteenth century European occupation of Middle Island include machine cut nails, glass bottle fragments, stoneware crock fragments and pie plate of ironstone, painted and plain blue edge refined white earthenware.

Several faunal recoveries from our excavation units also relate to European activities. Pig bone was found in the basal two excavation levels (10-20 cm) (Prevec, 1984). The freshwater drum (3) and grey squirrel (2) bones could pertain to either the historic or prehistoric components, although there is no doubt that the Native occupants were net fishing in the island vicinity.

One test pit along the northern site perimeter produced some highly fragmented human bone within the old plough zone. The initial pit was expanded to an 80 cm. square unit in an effort to ascertain the condition of this burial. No undisturbed portion was located. Vertebral, cranial, tibia, femoral (?) and ulna (?) fragments, as well as a foot phalange displaying some arthritic lipping were present, suggesting that at least one adult individual had been interred here. All human bone was re-interred in the unit upon backfilling.

Kathleen (AnHq-10)

This small camp was discovered just to the east of the Sulston site (see Figure 2). Recoveries were meagre; most being surface finds. An eroded dentate stamped neck sherd suggests a Riviere or Younge Phase provenience for the camp. Lithics include several pieces of burnt chert debitage, a block core and most of a sandstone slab metate. The latter exhibits a raised central area on the working surface, an attribute characteristic of Younge Tradition metates in Ontario.

Riddell (AnHq-11)

A single test pit produced ceramics on this site (see Figure 2). Consequently, a one meter test unit was established and excavated in arbitrary 5 cm. levels to a depth of 25 cm. Ceramics were most abundant between 10 and 20 cm., while numerous natural chert pebbles were recovered throughout the deposit, particularly within the subsoil

Most, if not all of the ceramics relate to a single Younge Phase vessel bearing the punctate between parallel trailed line neck motif characteristic of many Essex County Younge Phase sites (Lennox, 1982 and Reid, 1982). Figure 4 is an artist's conception of how this vessel may have looked.

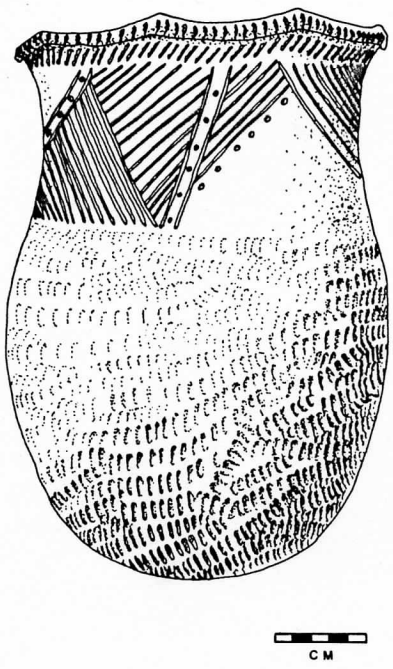


Figure 4: Riddell site Younge Phase vessel - artist's reconstruction (J. Ravenhurst)

In addition to the 13 sherds and 36 mic sherds obtained from the unit, abundant Selk and Onondaga chert debitage was recovered. four pebble cores indicate that most of the raw material probably derived from local se condary deposits.

A single freshwater drum bone was excav ted from Level 3 (10-15 cm) of the test unit

Moss (AnHq-12)

A short distance east of the Riddell ca ceramics and chert debitage were surface col lected from a wave eroded back shore deposit (see Figure 2). Eight eroded body sherds an three micro-sherds were collected from unde cobbles and picked from limestone bedrock fissures.

These ceramics exhibit very coarse grit temper and appear to have been cord marked o both the exterior and interior. Exterior co ing is fine, while the interior displays a coarse cord or fabric impression. No coil breaks are evident and the maximum thickness ranges from 10 to 12 mm. It is unfortunate that these sherds are so eroded and that no rims were recovered, as this vessel may be E Woodland or Western Basin Middle Woodland.

Melissa (AnHq-13)

Amongst the limestone rubble at the east end of the former island landing strip a humus deposit contained a single ceramic vessel neck/shoulder section. This vessel was decorated with dentate stamp obliques on a smoothed neck, a line of dentate stamp obliques around the shoulder, and a cord marked body.

An 80 x 40 cm test unit/profile of the deposit produced three micro-sherds, Selk chert debitage, notched limestone cobble and fragment netsinkers (4), fire-cracked roc faunal remains and a deer bone awl. Thirty-four bones were excavated from this test unit and have been identified as: walleye (7), freshwater drum (7), catfish-probably channel (2), turtle-not snapping turtle (1), deer (3) and domestic chicken (1) (Prevec 1984). The latter identification is a little disconcerting, as it relates to a comple leg bone displaying butchering marks; nevertheless, it only serves to confirm the dis- turbed nature of the deposit. Most, and perhaps all of the remaining bone probably relates to the prehistoric Younge or Riviere Phase occupation.

Limestone (AnHq-14)

This artifact scatter was similar to the Moss site in being situated amongst a wave eroded deposit behind a limestone outcrop shore (see Figure 2). Onondaga and Selkirk chert debitage, a Selkirk chert pebble core and a Selkirk chert biface rejec fragment were surface collected from around limestone cobbles and storm debris.

Indiana Reid (AnHq-15)

A scatter of chert debitage, cores and chipped stone tools was discovered over the surface of two parallel sand and gravel strandlines in the northwest sector of th island (see Figure 2). Ten single artifacts and artifact clusters were mapped on th camp. In addition to the usual Selkirk and Onondaga chert flakes, fragments and cor a small ovate acuminate Selkirk chert biface, a quartzite flake fragment and several worked slate pieces were recovered.

The latter three flake tools are similar in form to (albeit smaller than) slate artifacts recovered by Lennox (1982:Figure 19) on the Bruner-Colasanti camp. Consequently, and despite the absence of ceramics, the Indiana Reid site has been tentatively assigned a Younge Phase provenience.

Middle Island Lighthouse (AnHq-16)

The ruins of this structure were mapped (see Figure 2) and photographed, and a small collection of glass, metal and ceramic artifacts were assembled.

Summary

The diagnostic artifacts derived from our 1983 Middle Island survey are not abun dant, however, our understanding of the island's history has been enhanced. It appea that small family (?) groups were visiting Middle Island over a period of roughly one millenium. Despite the fact that the island was connected to the mainland until some four to five thousand years ago (Rennie, 1982), no Palaeo-Indian or Archaic material has been located to date. Archaic and Middle Woodland occupations have been identifi on Pelee Island to the north (Keenlyside, 1972); however, while the Moss site *may* dat to as early as 500 B.C., the first definite occupation relates to the Riviere or Your Phase of the Younge Tradition, some 1000 years ago. A Wolf Phase (c. 1400 A.D.) com ponent has been identified on the Sulston camp, but the Younge Phase seems to represe the major period of Native activity on Middle Island.

Artifacts, faunal remains and, of course, geographic setting suggest a fishing emphasis to prehistoric subsistence. It is unlikely that this small island could hav supported a permenent deer population, but individuals could have crossed winter ice to the island from time to time. Small game were no doubt procurred by the island vi itors when available. Other food resources may well have included nuts, berries and eggs derived from extensive nesting bird colonies.

To conclude, limited ceramic data suggest that Younge Phase peoples from the Ontario mainland travelled as far south as Middle Island during the period from c. 900-1200 A.D. This evidence emphasizes the maritime aspect of the Ontario Younge Tradition settlement pattern, as opposed to that of contemporary Early Ontario Iroquoian groups to the east. Later Wolf Phase visitors to Middle Island may well have originated from communities situated near the south Erie shore in present day Ohio.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The diligent and generally durable crew of volunteers who braved high waves, cold temperatures and large snakes to assist Ian Kenyon and the writer is to be commended, and included: Neal Ferris, Gil Morris, Dave Riddell and Dr. Peter Reid. The writer also wishes to thank Mr. C.W. Moss, owner of Middle Island, for permission to undertake the survey.

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Back in KEWA, by popular demand, is our archaeology quiz feature, courtesy of Peter Hamalainen (it's only been 5 years since our last one!)

Question: Name a childish artefact category.

Answer: Two words, sixteen letters.

Below are all the words found in the glossary. They run backwards and forward, up and down and diagonally, always in straight lines. When you find a word appearing in the glossary in the jumble, circle each letter in the word. Look only for words that appear in the glossary. When you have finished the leftover letters will spell the answer.

Jumble

P E T U N F Y T S D S A N D T
O O F O O D E J H F I R E R S
T U T R U M N P E V A G A H N
S E M T P E I A L E A I A R N
S S S E E P I R L R L P U S H
E T R L E R E N O D E T E U L
T R R S E P Y T I Q O P R C A
U I A A O C S S A K U O O N R
B G R R D H C R E N N O W E T
I N T G A I T S C D K O I W U
R I R R M E N T I I L Y G A E
T T D A F A A G N S L O A L N
T S R A M T I G C C E E M L A
A E C S E Q U E N C E H E U C
C T N O I T A R O C E D T P S

Glossary

A
Algonkin
Artefact
Attributes

C
Ceramics
Clay
Cooking

D
Decoration
Dig
Disc

F
Fire
Food
Forms

G
Game
Grit

H
Huron

I
Iroquoian

L
Learn

N
Neutral
New
Notes

O
Old

P
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Pipes
Pots
Pottery
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Punctate
Push

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Sand
Sequence
Shape
Shards
Shell
Storage
Study

T
Temper
Testing
Thesis
Trading
Trail
Turn
Types

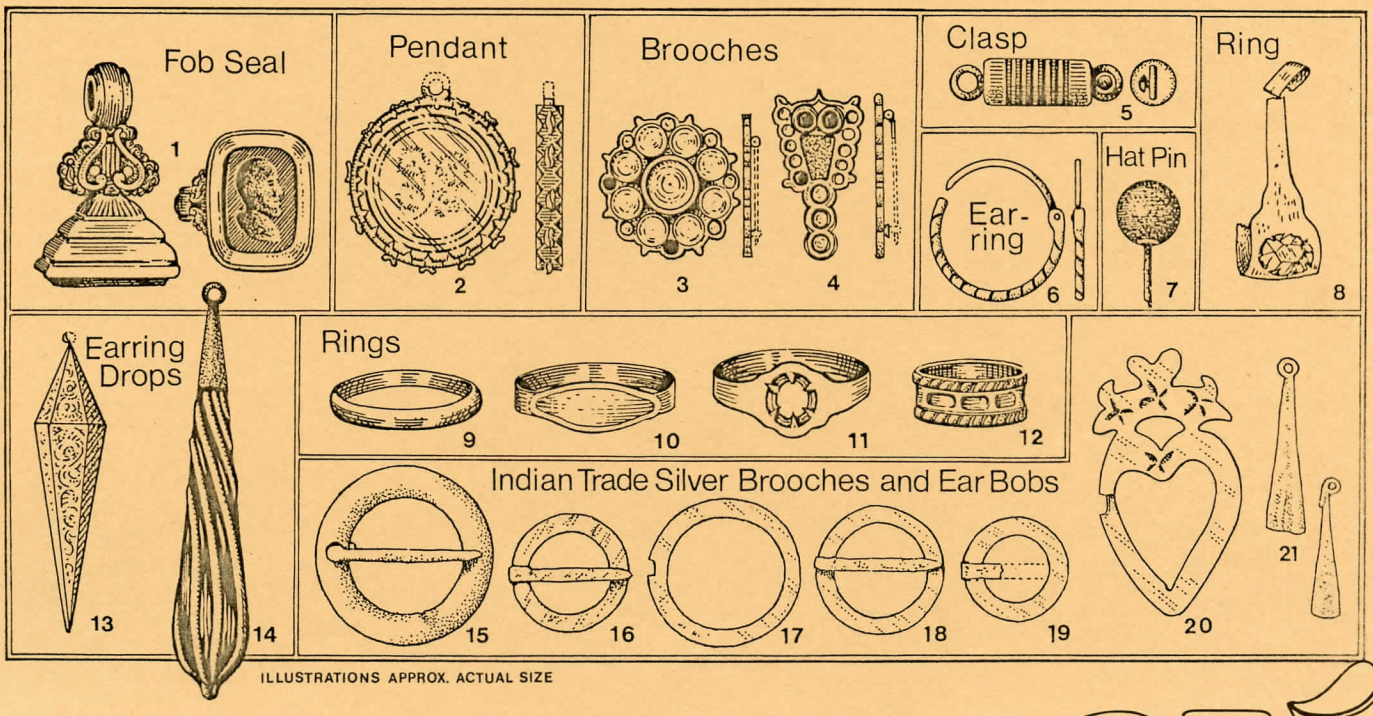
W
Woodland

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

Jewellery

THOMAS KENYON

While jewellery in the 19^{c} was popular and richly varied, it is generally a scarce artifact in an archaeological context. The exception is the generous amount recovered from the 1983 Mohawk Village excavation. Of the 21 pieces illustrated below, 15 are from this "dig". Items 4 to 6, 8 and 10 to 14 are from feature 12 (c. 1840-60). Fifteen to 19 and 21 are from feature 2 (c. 1810-35). 1.- In the 18^{c} the fob seal was an object used to impress the owner's mark in wax. They were worn on a chain or a man's chatelaine. By the 19^{c} it was an object of ornament rather than use. This example, with a lyre motif, is cast in yellow metal and has an intaglio bust of a bearded man on its amber coloured hardstone. 2.- Encircled by a decorative brass casing and enclosed between two round pieces of glass, this pendant displays a faint floral image on a cloth backing. Both 1 and 2 are from the John Croker site (1820-45). 3.- A gilt brass brooch with a floral design that once held 17 black agate stones. Surface find from a mid 19^{c} site near Indiana. 4.- Similar to 3. These two brooches (3 and 4) were usually worn on the collar of a woman's dress or blouse. 5.- Brass necklace clasp. 6.- Front-closure type of brass earring. 7.- Hat pin with round black top, from Hunter's Well (c. 1825-40). 8.- Gilt brass finger ring with a faceted "amethyst like" stone. 9.- Gold filled brass ring, also from Hunter's Well. 10, 11.- Gilt brass finger rings. 12.- Cast yellow metal child's ring. 13.- Gilt brass earring drop decorated with incised scrolls. 14.- Pendant earring drop in hollow cobalt blue glass with ribbed spirals. 15 to 19.- A selection of small Indian trade silver circular brooches. Traquair (1940) notes that "most of the Indian trade silver was either imported or made in Montreal by late 18^{c} and early 19^{c} silversmiths". 20.- A single crowned heart "Luckenbooth" brooch. Surface find at the old Onondaga village near Middleport. Luckenbooth brooches were made by silversmiths that worked in booths or shops built around the St. Giles church in Edinburgh, Scotland from c. 1775 to 1853. 21.- Two Indian trade silver ear bobs



ILLUSTRATIONS APPROX. ACTUAL SIZE